

November /  
December  
2009



## Looking Ahead

- November 2  
8:30 a.m.  
REAP Retreat  
WSU Marcus Welcome  
Center
- November 16  
8:00 a.m.  
WRC Retreat  
WSU Metroplex
- December 9  
8:30 a.m.  
Kansas Water Issues  
Forum  
SG Co. Extension Center
- December 10  
9:00 a.m.  
WRC Technical Sub.  
WSU Metroplex
- December 14  
8:00 a.m.  
REAP Meeting  
WSU Metroplex

## Water & Wastewater Dashboards Useful for Setting Utility Rates

As responsible management of a water utility includes up-to-date awareness of a systems financial condition, the Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University has developed a pair of tools to help utility operators get a clear and powerful picture of how their system is currently performing; areas of improvement; and the future outlook for their system. The free "Financial Dashboards" for both Drinking Water Systems and Wastewater Systems allow operators to input system-specific information to demonstrate the effects of different rate structures and other potential financial scenarios to see the impacts of those scenarios on their systems. To view a sample dashboard or register and create your own, visit



<http://efc.boisestate.edu/efc>

developed a pair of tools to help utility operators get a clear and powerful picture of how their

system is currently performing; areas of improvement; and the future outlook for their system. The free "Financial Dashboards" for both Drinking Water Systems and Wastewater Systems allow operators to input system-specific information to demonstrate the effects of different rate structures and other potential financial scenarios to see the impacts of those scenarios on their systems.

To view a sample dashboard or register and create your own, visit

## Drinking Water Contaminants List

In September, the EPA released the "CCL 3", a list of contaminants that are currently not subject to any proposed or existing national primary drinking water regulations; are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems; and which may require regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The CCL 3 includes 104 chemical contaminants such as pesticides, disinfection byproducts, pharmaceuticals, chemicals from commerce, waterborne pathogens and algal toxins. The CCL is published every 5 years and while it does not impose any requirements on public water supply systems by itself, it serves as the resource list of contaminants that the EPA is studying to make decisions about whether additional drinking water regulations are needed. For the complete list and more information about the CCL process, visit



<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/>

## WRC Completes Report on Municipal Utility Growth Issues

The REAP Water Resources Committee has completed its report on Municipal Utility Growth Issues and the final report was adopted at the September meeting of the full REAP board. The report is the result of considerable research and offers an overview of the current state of RWDs in the region; the inadequacy of current state statutes to handle conflicts; and the long-term costs of such disputes. A list of committee recommendations for best



practices and public policy at the regional, state, and national level conclude the

report. Recommendations include advocating state legislation to establish a formula for determining the value of undeveloped RWD service area as well as developing state legislation to require mediation or other Advances Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques

to establish compensation to RWDs when service area is annexed. The full report is available online at [www.reap-ks.org/water](http://www.reap-ks.org/water)

## Compliance Date for EPA Ground Water Rules set for December 1, 2009

The US EPA published the Ground Water Rule (GWR) in November of 2006 to provide increased protection against microbial pathogens, specifically bacterial and viral pathogens in public water systems that use ground water. Instead of the traditional 4-log treatment for all ground water systems, the GWR establishes a risk targeted approach to identifying systems that are susceptible to fecal contamination and requires systems at risk to take corrective action to protect consumers. Basic

requirements of the GWR include sanitary surveys, source water monitoring, compliance monitoring and corrective actions.

### Basic Requirements of GWR

- **Sanitary surveys**
- **Source water monitoring**
- **Compliance monitoring**
- **Corrective actions**

Public health benefits the EPA will result from the GWR include the avoidance of 42,000 viral illnesses with a mean annual cost per

affected households of less than \$1.00. New sources which come on line after November 30, 2009 are required to either conduct triggered source water monitoring as required by the GWR or provide at least 4-log inactivation, removal, or a state approved combination of the technologies and conduct compliance monitoring within 30 days of the source being put in service. More information on the GWR and related documents are online at [http://www.kdheks.gov/pws/groundwater\\_rule.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/pws/groundwater_rule.htm)

## 3rd Annual Kansas Climate & Water Issues Forum in Wichita – December 9th

The 2009 Kansas Water Issues Forum will be held in Wichita and Hays, December 9th and 10th, respectively. This year's event focuses on climate and its effects on water resources and is designed to raise awareness and stimulate discussion on the impacts a changing climate might have on

climate and energy. The forum is appropriate for Basin Advisory Committee members, state and local government, natural resource workers, farmers, city planners and policy makers as well as the public. Space is limited and registration is required by Wednesday, November 25, 2009. A \$10 fee will cover a

buffet lunch, refreshments and meeting materials. Featured Speakers include Dan Nagengast, Director of the Kansas Rural Center and Dr. Sharon Billings of KU's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Registration and more information is available online at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).

## State of KS Celebrates Successful Joint Dredging Venture at Mission Lake

In early October the state celebrated its first joint venture to restore a city lake's water storage capacity by dredging. Mission Lake, west of Horton, KS was selected for the restoration by dredging demonstration in 2007. Supported in part by a \$4 million bond issue from the City of Horton, the project balance of \$6.6 million will be paid from the Clean Drinking Water Fee

Fund through the Water Supply restoration program administered by the State Conservation Commission. Partnerships such as this one are essential to leverage funds; expedite permitting and review; pool resources and increase public awareness. At the celebration, state



officials stressed the value of a dependable water supply to communities such as Horton that depend on surface water impoundments. The hydraulic dredge was activated after the celebration to show how sediment and lake water is transported to the off-site settling basin. More information about the project can be found online at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).

## KDHE Awards 10 Water Systems with Capacity Development Achievement Awards

KDHE has announced the 10 public water supply systems in Kansas to receive awards for going above and beyond federal safe drinking water standards. Capacity Development Achievement Awards for 2009 will be presented later this year to water systems in Harper, Wichita, Leonardville, Belvue, Pratt, Waverly, Chapman and LaCrosse as well as

Cowley County and Lyon County RWD #3. The awards are made possible using EPA funds and up to 5 are awarded annually to systems serving populations of 500 or less, and between 500–3,300 residents. No more than one is granted each year for systems serving between 3,301–10,000 people and for 10,001 or more people. No more

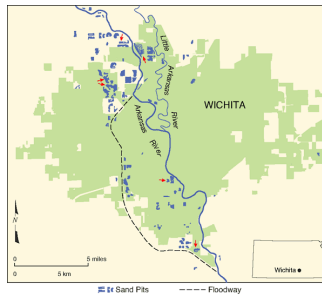


than one wholesale water district receives the award each year.

Cowley County and the City of Harper received their awards in October, and the City of Wichita will accept its award Nov. 3rd. For more information about the award and this year's recipients, visit <http://www.kdheks.gov/>

## New KGS Circular Highlights Stormwater Runoff's Effects on Groundwater Quality

The common practice of excavating sand and gravel for construction materials around Wichita sparked an interest in the potential for sitting stormwater in empty pits to provide a direct opening to the aquifer, thus easily transferring any contaminants



from stormwater runoff to the ground water supply. A recent study involving the Sedgwick County Department of Environmental Resources selected six sand pits around Wichita for a detailed study, five of which were surrounded by residential developments. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation installed three monitoring wells and after extended studying the KGS

published a circular explaining the findings, including the belief in a direct connection between stormwater runoff and the ground water supply in open pits. However, the concentrations of the 21 pesticides or compounds formed from degraded pesticides detected at the study

sites (including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) were substantially below regulated drinking water criteria and recommended health advisories. Selected metals in sediments at all pits exceeded the threshold toxic effects for ecosystems. For a complete copy of the circular visit

<http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Publications/PIC/pic29.html>

## What is the REAP Water Resources Committee?

In 2007, the Water Resources Committee was formed as a subset committee of REAP with the purpose of serving as a regional conduit of information and education regarding water quality and quantity issues in the South Central Kansas Region. The Committee is currently comprised of 25 cities and counties. The WRC also serves as a regional voice on behalf of the members before federal, state and regional agencies. Interested communities attend our meetings and contact the Committee's Executive Officer, Angela Buzard, at the information below to learn more about the Committee.



**WaterWise**  
c/o REAP Water Resources Committee  
Hugo Wall School  
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 155  
Wichita, KS 67260

Feedback and topic suggestions are welcome!  
Please contact Angela Buzard  
Phone: (316) 978-3401  
E-mail: [angela.buzard@wichita.edu](mailto:angela.buzard@wichita.edu)  
Website: [www.reap-ks.org](http://www.reap-ks.org)